

HOUSE RESOLUTION 309

By Faulkner

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Reverend Floyd M.
"Mike" Viles for twenty-seven years of service to
God and humanity as a minister.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this legislative body should honor those individuals who have answered a divine call to the ministry and who have served with dedication, vigor, and enthusiasm to perform God's work for their congregations and their communities; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Floyd M. "Mike" Viles is one such stalwart servant of the Lord, who faithfully serves as Director of Missions for the Northern and Midland Baptist Associations, which consist of fifty-three churches located in Hancock, Union, Claiborne, Anderson, Knox, and Blount counties; and

WHEREAS, while serving as Director of Missions for the past eight years, he has been instrumental in creating a Disaster Relief Unit that has assisted in every major hurricane disaster since Hurricane Isabel and in other local emergency events; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Viles has also been successful in establishing a Seminary Extension Center in the Association Office, which offers seminary training to ministers and lay persons alike; and

WHEREAS, a respected missionary trainer and trip coordinator, Reverend Viles has traveled to Rio de Janeiro thirteen times on various types of mission trips, most recently on medical missions, and has enjoyed the privilege of leading thousands of individuals to accept Christ; he has also participated in local and North American missions; and

WHEREAS, Mike Viles was ordained into the ministry in February 1983, and the reach of his influence spans many East Tennessee counties and multiple generations; and

WHEREAS, he has served with distinction as Pastor at Byerley's Chapel Baptist Church in Grainger County, Central View Baptist Church, Seven Islands Baptist Church, and New Liberty Baptist Church in Knox County, and Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church in Anderson County; and

WHEREAS, he also assisted in re-organizing New Beginning Baptist Church in Knoxville and served as Interim Pastor there; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Viles attended Clear Creek Baptist Bible College and holds a Master of Ministry degree from Andersonville Baptist Seminary; and

WHEREAS, he is a man of God who has dedicated his life to serving his Lord faithfully, remaining loyal to the call of Christ, and his life verse is Philippians 3:10: "That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death"; and

WHEREAS, Mike Viles is most thankful for the love and companionship of his wife of forty years, Deborah; and

WHEREAS, Reverend and Mrs. Viles share love and respect with their two married children and two grandchildren; spending time with his grandchildren is one of his greatest joys, and he also enjoys unwinding on the golf course and cultivating his garden; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Mike Viles truly exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of true Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable twenty-seven years as a humble servant of God, Reverend Viles has demonstrated the utmost ability and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his friends, his family, and his colleagues in the ministry; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and recognize Reverend Floyd M. "Mike" Viles for his meritorious service to God and humanity, thank him for his many good works as Director of Missions for the Northern and Midland Baptist Associations, and extend to him our best wishes for every continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.